



McKinley Classic Junior Leadership Academy

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August 3, 2023

Dear McKinley Families, Community Members and Students:

I am Dr. Frederick Polkinghorne, and I am honored to serve as the Middle School Assistant Principal for the 2023-2024 school year! I look forward to working with you and our scholars to support academic and social growth over the coming months. In this letter, I will address my background, my leadership pillars, and my hope for the upcoming school year.

I bring 20 years of experience in education to my role and an earned doctorate, education specialist, masters, and bachelor degree in education. Collectively, I have taught and led academic programs at the middle, secondary, and post-secondary education levels. In 2018, I was privileged to join the faculty of Gateway STEM High School and return to St. Louis after many years as professor and director of teacher education in Georgia, Ohio, and Illinois. While McKinley is a new assignment, I am committed to bringing my passion and energy to enhance the school climate and culture of high achievement, with a strong focus on socially and emotionally supporting students in their academic studies.

My leadership is grounded in three pillars: transparency, collaboration, and innovation. These pillars support my pledge to help families, scholars, and the community to sustain and enhance the Goldbug culture of high achievement. Through working with families, community members, scholars, and faculty and staff members we can enhance academic and social outcomes for students.

My hope for the school year is to (1) build rapport and mutual respect with the McKinley community, (2) energize innovative practices for teaching and learning and (3) support the social and emotional needs of our shared scholars. I look forward to meeting and working with you to invigorate the love and joy of learning for the McKinley Goldbugs.

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